

30. NEW TAXA OF THE GENUS *LASIANTHUS* (RUBIACEAE)

(With three text-figures)

In course of taxonomic study of the genus *Lasianthus* (Rubiaceae) in Indian subcontinent the authors came across some specimens which are distinct from the known taxa. Three of these are described below with illustrations as new varieties.

***Lasianthus andamanicus* Hook f.**

var. ***ciliatus*** var. nov. (Fig. 1)

differt a varietate typica foliorum nervulis tertiariis glabratis vel glabriusculis; stipulis calycum dentibusque longe ciliatis.

Differing from the typical variety in glabrous or glabrescent tertiary nerves; stipules and calyx teeth long ciliate.

Type: South Andaman, Beadnabad, \pm 50 m, 30.11.1973, N. P. Balakrishnan 654 *holo.* CAL, *iso.* E, PBL; Dhanikhari, \pm 50 m, 31.1.1974, N. G. Nair 840 *para.* L, PBL; Herbertabad, sea level, 29.11.1975, N. G. Nair 3184 *para.* PBL; Dhanikhari, 16.1.1978, P. Basu 6641 *para.* PBL; Little Andaman, Hut Bay, sea level, 1.9.1976, N. Bhargava 4339 *para.* CAL; North Nicobar, Mildera, \pm 30 m, 4.5.1977, P. Chakraborty 5600 *para.* CAL.

Shrubs small, 1-3 m high; branchlets horizontally spreading, glabrous or pubescent, chocolate coloured when dry. *Leaves* petiolate, 5.5-15 \times 2.5-5 cm, elliptic, elliptic-oblong or elliptic-lanceolate, acuminate at apex, acute at base, slightly coriaceous, glabrous, glossy, chocolate above when dry, pale beneath, hirsute or pubescent on midrib, secondary and tertiary nerves; midrib shallow channelled above; lateral nerves 6-10 on either side, opposite or subopposite, subparallel, arched, slightly raised above; nervules parallel, forked, faint; petioles 5-12 mm long, pubescent or hirsute; stipules 3-6 \times 1-2 mm, lanceolate, long ciliate above; colleters at base beneath. *In-florescence* axillary sessile cymes, 2-4 flowered,

ebracteate; bracteoles absent or very minute, \pm 1 mm long, triangular, pubescent. *Flowers* sessile or subsessile, 4-10 mm long, tubular, white; pedicels 0-0.5 mm long, pubescent. *Hypanthium* \pm 0.5 mm long, oblong, pubescent. *Calyx* \pm 1.5 \times 2.5 mm, cupular; teeth 4, triangular acute, ciliate above. *Corolla* tube 8-9 mm long, narrow, pubescent at upper part on both surfaces; lobes 4, \pm 3 mm long, oblong, inflexed at apex, pubescent above. *Stamens* 4, included; filaments minute, adnate below the throat; anthers \pm 2 mm long, linear-oblong. *Ovary* \pm 0.5 mm long, obovoid, 4 celled; ovules solitary per locule, basal, erect; style 8-9 mm long, slender, glabrous; stigma \pm 0.5 mm long; 4 lobed, ovate, obtuse; disk 1-1.5 mm across, annular, smooth. *Fruits* sessile, 5-6 \times 3-4 mm, globose or ellipsoid, crowned with persistent calyx teeth, 4 furrowed, purple, blue or black; pericarp thin, pubescent; pyrenes 4, dorsally convex, with irregularly shallow grooves ventrally angled, thick walled, with few raphides. *Seeds* \pm 3 mm long, oblong, short stalked; embryo \pm 2.5 mm long; radicle inferior, broader at base, cotyledons thin, ovate, acute.

Distribution: Andaman and Nicobar islands, up to 50 m in altitude.

***Lasianthus lucidus* Bl.**

var. ***caudisepalus*** var. nov. (Fig. 2)

differt a varietate typica bracteolis triangularibus, calycum dentibus brevissimis, triangularibus.

This differs from the typical variety in having triangular bracteoles and calyx teeth very short, triangular.

Type: Arunachal Pradesh, Subansiri dist., Apa Tani valley, Hapoli, 1590 m, 26.4.1965, Cox & Hutchinson 499 *holo.* K, *iso.* E; Apa

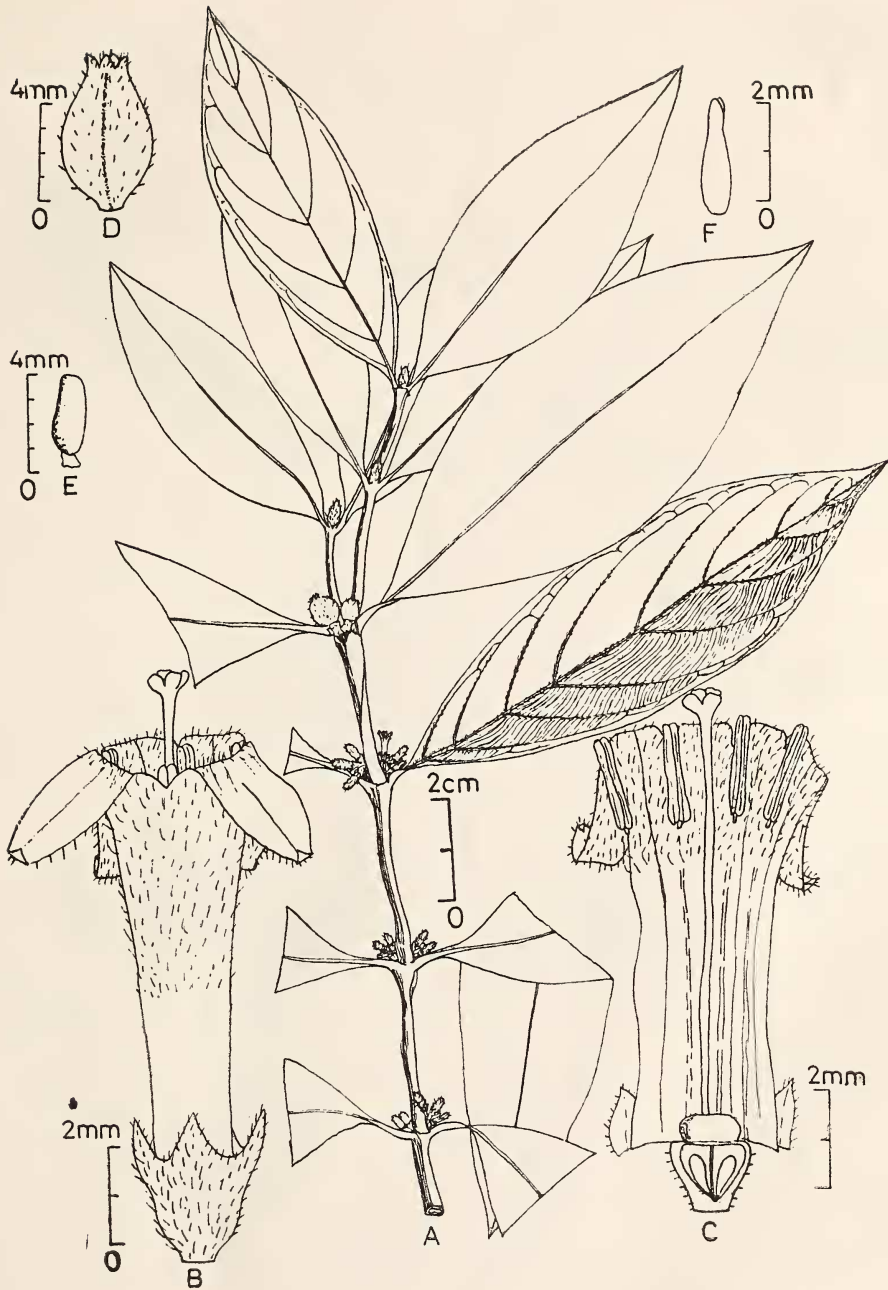


Fig. 1. *Lasianthus andamanicus* Hook. f. var. *ciliatus* var. nov.
A. Habit; B. Flower; C. Opened flower; D. Fruit; E. Seed; F. Embryo.

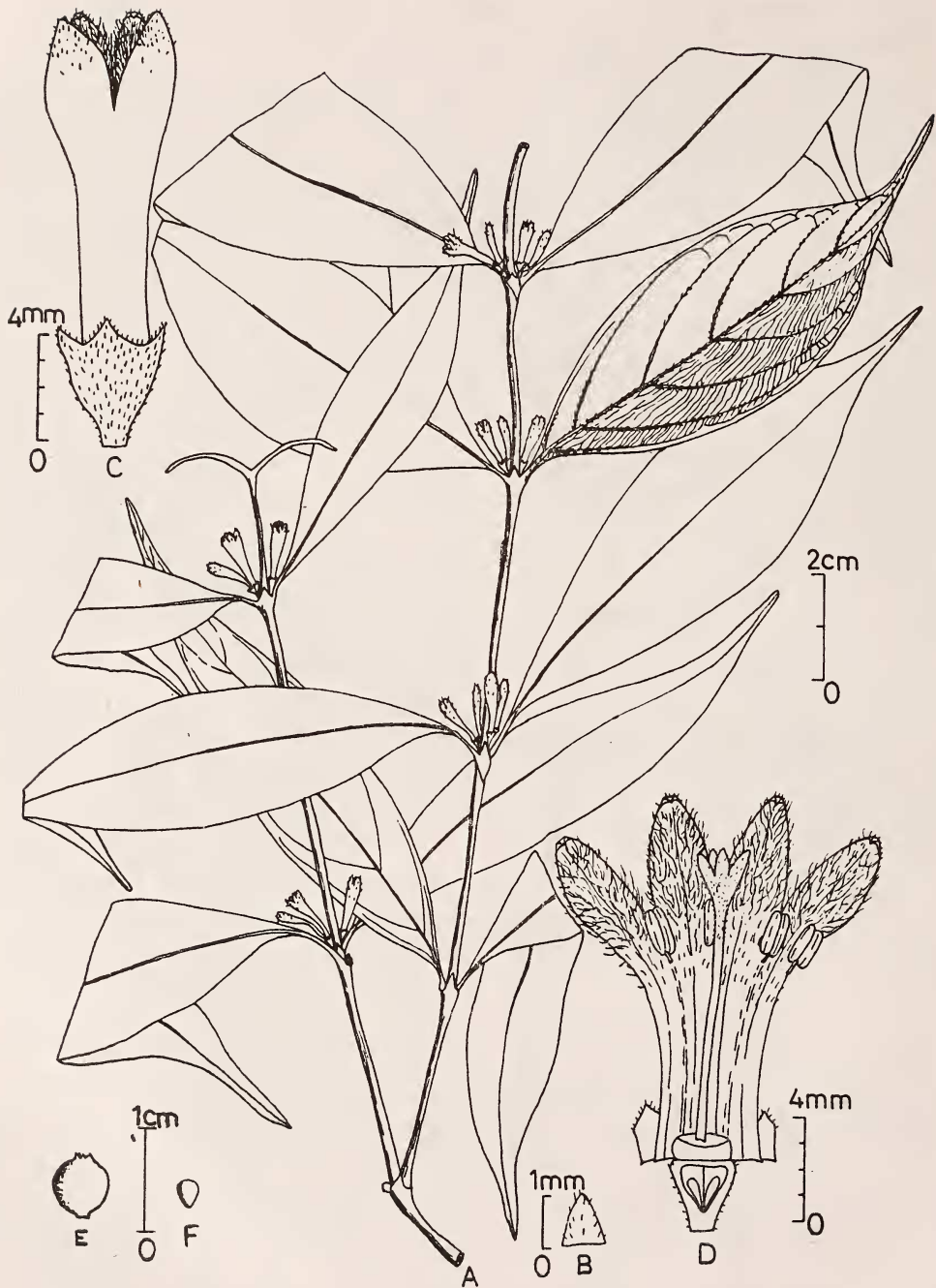


Fig. 2. *L. lucidus* Bl. var. *caudisepalus* var. nov.
A. Habit; B. Bracteole; C. Flower; D. Opened flower; E. Fruit; F. Seed.

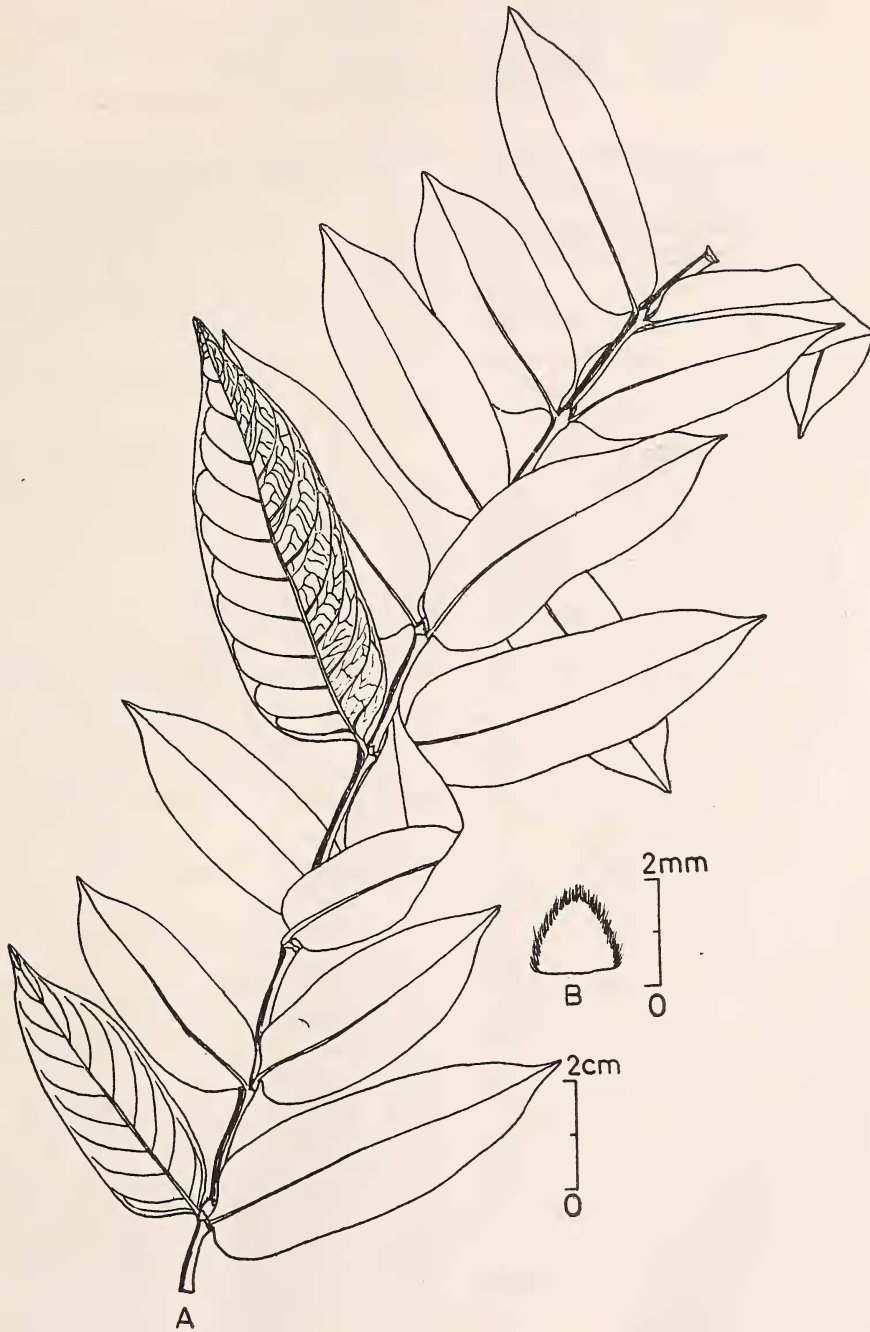


Fig. 3. *L. wallichii* Wt. var. *glabriusculus* var. nov.
A. Habit; B. Stipule.

Tani valley, 1620 m, 22.4.1965, *Cox & Hutchinson* 476 *para* E; Hapoli, 30.9.1959, *G. Panigrahi* 19813 *para*. ASSAM; Meghalaya, Nonglan, 1350 m, 3.11.1873, *C. B. Clarke* 20049 *para* K.

Shrubs 1.8-3 m high; branchlets slender, glabrescent or strigose. *Leaves* petiolate, 7.5-13 × 2-4 cm, elliptic-oblong or oblanceolate, caudate-acuminate at apex, acute at base, thin, membranous, glossy; midrib flattened; sparsely strigose; lateral nerves 5-6 on either side, opposite or subopposite, slender, arched; nervules subparallel, forked, inconspicuous above; petioles 4-10 mm long, slender, strigose; stipules 2-3 × 1.5-2 mm, ovate or triangular, acuminate, strigose, few colleters at base beneath. *Inflorescence* axillary subsessile cymes, 2-5 flowered; peduncle ± 1 mm long, strigose; bracteoles ± 1 mm long, triangular, acute, sparsely strigose. *Flowers* subsessile, short pedicelled, 14-16 mm long, tubular, white or light lilac, deeper outside; pedicels up to 0.5 mm long, strigose. *Hypanthium* ± 1 mm long, obovoid, strigose. *Calyx* ± 1 × 2.5 mm, cupular, strigose above; teeth 4 or 5, triangular, acute. *Corolla* tube 8-9 mm long, glabrous above, villous beneath at throat; lobes 4, ± 4 mm long, ovate, sparsely puberulous above, villous beneath. *Stamens* 4, included; filaments minute, adnate below throat; anthers ± 1 mm long, oblong. *Ovary* ± 0.5 mm long, obovoid, 4 celled; ovules one per locule, basal, erect; style ± 10 mm long, puberulous above; stigma ± 1 mm long, 3 lobed, ovate, obtuse, papillose; disk 1-1.5 mm across, flattened, smooth. *Fruit* sessile, 4-5 × 4-5 mm, globose, crowned by calyx lobes, 5 angled, grooved; pericarp thin, glabrous; pyrenes 5, obovoid. *Seeds* ± 2 mm long, obovoid, smooth.

Flowering: April-August; *fruiting*: Septem-

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ber-November.

Ecology: Grows in subtropical forest at 1590-1620 m in altitude.

Distribution: Arunachal and Meghalaya.

L. wallichii Wt.

var. **glabriusculus** var. nov. (Fig. 3)

differt a varietate typica foliis glabriusculis, stipulisque latissimis ovatis.

Differs from the typical variety in having almost glabrous leaves and broadly ovate stipules.

Type: Burma, 1.3.1849, *Falconer* 885 *holo.* & *iso.* CAL.

Shrubs; branchlets compressed, glabrescent, pubescent when young, warty in age. *Leaves* petiolate, 5-9 × 2-3 cm, oblong, acuminate at apex, slightly unequally obtuse at base, coriaceous, glabrous; pale green when dry; midrib slender, slightly raised, channelled above, hirsute beneath; lateral nerves 10-12 on either side, subopposite, subparallel, arched at margin, conspicuous beneath; nervules irregularly forked, inconspicuous; petioles 2-4 mm long; stipules ± 2 × 3 mm broad, ovate, acute at apex, pubescent beneath. *Flowers* and *fruits* not seen.

Distribution: Burma.

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